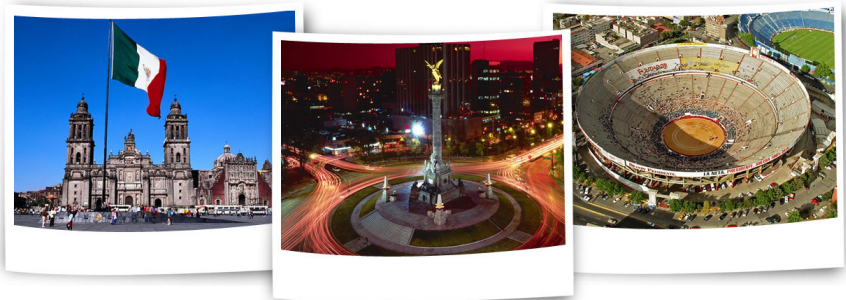




American Aborigine Societies stand in the History of Mankind as amazingly developed cultures, comparable to the ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, China and India. On the American Continent Incas, Aztecs and Mayas were outstanding Civilizations with their own Political, Social, Religious and Economic structures. Aztecs based in the High Lands of Mexico, were the Roman conquerors in the Middle of the American Continent. Their influence and control spread knowledge, trade and domination throughout Mexico and Central America. Aztecs and Mayans got some construction techniques from the Toltecs, through the link of the Aztec domination. We find Religious similarities, as well as an exchange of the astrological awareness and agricultural techniques.

DAY 1 MÉXICO CITY

Mexico City, once the Capital of the Aztec Empire, is 2,200 meters above sea level and has in the Valley of the Nations capital, a population exceeding 22 million people, plus another 5 million in a radius of 70 kilometers. Development of such a

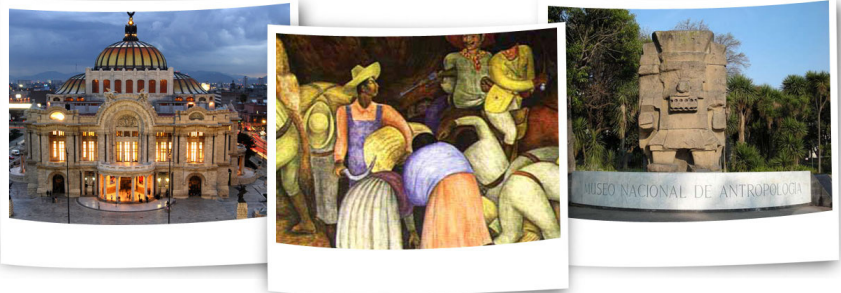


megalopolis contains a path full of historic and physical factors that permitted the City to reach such size. All over, as well as nearby, you find the heritage of the Pre-Hispanic societies that populated or influenced the configuration of such colossal urban settlement. The 16th Century witnessed the Conquest of the Country by the Spanish expeditionary army and the religious missionaries, both changing beliefs and way of life of the aborigine groups. A new architecture was enforced using as foundation for the new buildings, the religious monuments of the existing people. Churches were placed on top of the aborigine temples and today you find Colonial Churches with rich and artistic furnishings and in some cases next to the church, what was not used as a foundation, has been uncovered to its original archeological formation. Mexico City has a Historic District which central square known as the Zocalo right in the Center of the City.

· MEXICO SILVER CITIES ·

DAY 2 MÉXICO CITY

Mexico City Guided Tour, visiting major attractions. We start where it all begun, we go to El Zocalo. You will see the National Palace with an extended series of Mural Paintings that show a Graphic evolution of the History of the Country and which were painted by Diego Rivera. The Metropolitan Cathedral



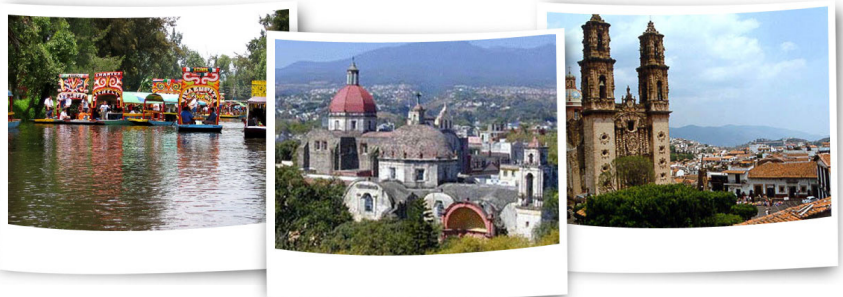
The oldest and largest cathedral in Latin America, a spectacular Building intended to distract the Aztec people from their own previous beliefs and convert them to the new religion. Also, right in the rear of the Cathedral, the Templo Mayor Pyramids and Museum, which were part of the big Ceremonial Center of the Aztecs, used as a foundation for other religious buildings. Templo Mayor was not only the most visible sight of an immense urban complex, but also represented the cosmic center of the universe for the Aztecs. You will see The Palacio de Bellas Artes a 19th Century all white marble building performing as a theater as well as an Art Museum, with many fine sculptures. To get a feeling of the City you will drive along the Paseo de la Reforma, inspired by the “Champs Elisée” in Paris, reaching the National Anthropology Museum.

DAY 3 MÉXICO CITY

We will undertake a guided excursion to the famous Teotihuacan Pyramids, starting with a visit to the Virgin of Guadalupe Shrine. This Church is a place of pilgrimage for millions of Mexicans and other parts of the World. The day will dedicate a visit to the ancient archaeological zone of Tenochtitlan north of Mexico City, with its impressive Toltec Pyramids dedicated to the Sun, the Moon, the Quetzalcoatl Temple and the fortresses, the largest monuments of their type in the World.

DAY 4 MÉXICO CITY – XOCHIMILCO - CUERNAVACA – TAXCO

Today we will depart to the traditional floating gardens of Xochimilco, which in the náhuatl dialect means “place of the flowery orchard” is one of the areas in Mexico City in which the lake-based society that once characterized the whole Valley of México still remains, and takes part in a society full of traditions that has centuries of history, and has been declared Cultural and Natural Heritage of the World by the UNESCO.



Continue to Cuernavaca. Warm and friendly land, naturally beautiful, historically transcendent; Cuernavaca, the “City of the Eternal Spring”, must be walked step by step, and from north to south, to enjoy its serene beautifulness and discover, maybe under the shadow of one of the centenarian trees of the Borda Garden, maybe at the fields of the placid haciendas, why it is a refuge of calmness, a paradise of tranquillity. Continue to Taxco. Taxco de Alarcon, Mexico’s silver capital, is a charming colonial town nestled in the mountains of Guerrero state between Mexico City and Acapulco. The town’s winding cobblestone streets and whitewashed houses

· MEXICO SILVER CITIES ·

with red tile roofs, and its impressive Santa Prisca cathedral all combine to make Taxco a lovely and picturesque town. Those interested in purchasing silver will find the greatest selection here. Overnight in Taxco.

DAY 5 TAXCO – ACAPULCO

In the morning we will travel from Taxco to Acapulco. A short 3 hour drive down the Mountain will have us reach Acapulco, a destination of strong tourist impact, both national and international travelers. Acapulco was the main gateway to the Pacific Ocean during the Colonial stage of Mexico and goes back to the 16th and 17th



Centuries from where expeditions left and found the Route to the Philippines and India. Already in the 1940's Acapulco started pushing and building to get a slice of the Tourist demand from North America. In the Fifties and Sixties the Jet Set and major Hollywood stars bought huge villas enhancing Acapulco's name Worldwide.

6 - 7 ACAPULCO

For your days of leisure you will find a paradise on the Pacific Ocean. Nestled at the edge of The West Sierra Mountain formation, Acapulco is South of the Tropic of Cancer and has a very stable warm weather. The country side is abundantly



covered by green foliage and Nature has nice preserved areas, a joy to the eye and the spirit. Acapulco is famous for a light and yellowish color of the sand on the beach. People call it the Gold Coast. Contrast with the emerald green of the Ocean has enchanted people who always come back. Acapulco Bay is "U" shaped with Solid Hills from where the view is simply breathtaking. But outside these hills you find lagoons and mangroves where Nature has definite expressions that relate us to our origin and tells us what life is all about. Acapulco Dinning is a Gourmet Challenge of Satisfaction and Acapulco very reputed Night Life goes on until Sun Rise. Attractions you might want to see besides the beautiful beaches are Capilla de la Paz The Chapel of peace located on the scenic road to the Airport with an elevation of 1200 Feet above sea level and a cross 130 feet High. The Zocalo, is the Town Square, in old Acapulco giving you a genuine feeling of a Mexican town. It is quite close to La Quebrada where Cliff divers plung from over 40 Meters. La Quebrada issurrounded by local shops, restaurants. You may visit The Casa de la Cultura a School of Arts and Culture for locals to develop their talents. It has art gallery, literature, music and dramatic performances. The San Diego Fort an 18th Century fortress with canons used to scare away Pirates, today includes a museum of Acapulco History. Other places, the Navy Base Museum, Municipal Market, Jardin Botanico de Acapulco and many more.

· MEXICO SILVER CITIES ·

INCLUDED SERVICES

- » Welcome meeting at the airport in Mexico City by our Guide
- » English / German speaking guide on arrival & departure and during the days of tour.
- » Accommodations in hotels mentioned below or similar
- » Daily breakfast
- » Visits mentioned in the itinerary, including entrances fees to the archaeological sites and museums
- » One lunch in Mexico City. Fixed menu in local restaurant (No drinks included)
- » Hotel accommodation at previously mentioned cities, and 3 nights accommodation in Acapulco with breakfast included
- » Government taxes
- » Gratuities in hotels (bell boys and maids)

NOT INCLUDED SERVICES

- » Airport taxes and personal expenses
- » Meals not mentioned in the program
- » Tips during the roundtrip (to the tour guide and bus driver)

HOTELS

- » Mexico City: Misión Zona Rosa 4*, Casa Blanca 4*, Fontan Reforma 4*, or similar
- » Taxco: Hotel Monte Taxco 5* or similar
- » Acapulco: Fiesta Inn Acapulco 4*, El Presidente Acapulco 4*, or similar

